

Message Text

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R 031642Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS STATE 195854

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO,VZ

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN - INSECT ZOO

1. SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
INCLUDES AMONG EXHIBITS PERMANENT INSECT ZOO PRESENTING
LIVE INSECTS FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD IN SIMULATED
HABITATS. FOREIGN AREA INSECTS ARE GATHERED IN MANY PARTS
OF THE WORLD BY COOPERATING ENTOMOLOGISTS AND IMPORTED INTO
THE UNITED STATES UNDER PERMIT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE. FOR CERTAIN DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS, PERMIT
LIMITS IMPORTS TO MALE SPECIMENS ONLY. UPON RECEIPT OF
SEALED SHIPMENTS, SMITHSONIAN OPENS SHIPMENTS UNDER
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SUPERVISION.

2. WITH BUG LIFE SPANS OFTEN RECKONED IN MONTHS AND BUG
BREEDING PROGRAMS NEITHER PRACTICAL NOR DESIRABLE,
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PAGE 02 STATE 195854

SMITHSONIAN HAS NEED FOR REGULAR SUPPLIES FROM NATURAL
BREEDING AREAS. SHIPMENTS ARE MADE IN SMALL, SEALED AND
NON-BREAKABLE CONTAINERS AND TRANSIT TIME SHOULD BE
OPTIMUM 5 DAYS WITH A WEEK AS MAXIMUM FOR SEALED SURVIVAL
CONSIDERATIONS.

3. DR. F. FERNANDEZ-YEPEZ, OF THE UNIVERSIDADE CENTRAL DE

VENEZUELA IN MARACAY (HE IS FORMER HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF

ENTOMOLOGY) HAS AGREED TO COLLECT INSECTS FOR SMITHSONIAN IF FORWARDING ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE. SMITHSONIAN WOULD PREFER TO HAVE SUCH SHIPMENTS POUCHED TO WASHINGTON WITH TELEGRAPHIC NOTICE OF EXPECTED POUCH ARRIVAL DATE SO THAT EXPEDITIOUS PICK UP CAN BE MADE BEFORE BUGS EXPIRE. SUCH SHIPMENTS WOULD BE NO MORE FREQUENT THAN MONTHLY DURING COLLECTING SEASON, AND SMITHSONIAN EXPECTS ONLY 2 OR 3 SHIPMENTS YEARLY FROM ONE LOCATION. FERNANDEZ-YEPEZ WILL BE SENT PERMIT DATA ON PERMISSIBLE TYPES AND WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE THAT NO PROHIBITED INSECTS WOULD BE SENT. IN ADDITION, PACKAGES WOULD BE PREPARED BY DR. FERNANDEZ-YEPEZ IN ACCORDANCE WITH SMITHSONIAN INSTRUCTIONS AND ADDRESSED WITH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND SMITHSONIAN LABELS BEARING EXPLICIT HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS.

4. SMITHSONIAN WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED WHETHER EMBASSY WOULD AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT AS DESCRIBED ABOVE. VANCE

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